

REMARKS

Claims 1 to 16, 18 to 34, and 36 to 40 are pending this application of which claims 1, 11, 16, 20, 23, 29, 34 and 38 are the independent claims. Favorable reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 to 40 were rejected under 35. U.S.C § 102 over Gasser et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,224,163). As shown above Applicants have amended claims 16 and 34 to define the invention in greater clarity. Applicants traverse the rejection of the remaining claims.

Independent claim 1 is directed to a method that includes receiving, from a delegator, a designation of a role and a delegate to assume the role. The method also includes receiving, from a credential service provider, an indication that the designation is valid; and issuing a delegation credential in response to receiving the indication.

The applied art is not understood to disclose or suggest the foregoing features of claim 1. In particular, Gasser does not disclose or suggest "issuing a delegation credential in response to receiving the indication."

More specifically, Gasser describes remote resources comparing a delegator's name and the name of the delegate's workstation to a list and, if the names are on the list, granting access (see column 3, lines 26 to 34 and column 13, lines 48 to 54 of Gasser). The Examiner, on page 3 of the Office Action, has inferred that "issuing a delegation credential" is equivalent to comparing names on a list and granting access if the names are on the list. Applicants respectfully disagree. In particular, Applicants fail to see how issuing a delegation credential is

equivalent to granting access to a resource. In fact, as described in the specification, the delegation credential may be used to obtain access (see Fig. 7 of this application) which indicates that obtaining access and issuing a delegation credential are not equivalent.

Since Gasser does not disclose or suggest issuing a delegation credential, Applicants submit that claim 1 is patentable over Gasser.

Independent claim 11 is directed to a method that includes receiving a request from a delegate for access to a service and obtaining delegation credentials for the delegate. The method also includes determining which of the delegation credentials correspond to access requirements for the service and providing the delegation credentials that correspond to the access requirements.

The applied art is not understood to disclose or suggest the foregoing features of claim 11, particularly with respect to "determining which of the delegation credentials correspond to access requirements for the service."

In this regard, Gasser describes issuing a single delegation certificate to a delegate (see column 13, lines 38 to 54). Even when multiple certificates are used, Gasser does not disclose determining which of the delegation certificates correspond to the access requirements. That is, each certificate in the delegation chain of Gasser is necessary; therefore no such determination need be made (see column 13, line 57 to column 14 line 18 of Gasser).

Since Gasser does not disclose determining which of the delegation credentials correspond to access requirements for a service, claim 11 is believed to be patentable over Gasser.

Independent claim 16, as amended, is directed to a method that includes receiving, from a delegate, a value corresponding to a confirmation code and an identifier. The confirmation code and the identifier correspond to a delegator. The method also includes identifying the delegator using at least one of the identifier and the confirmation code and assigning, to the delegate, a delegation credential that corresponds to the delegator. The method further includes sending a message to the delegator indicating that the delegation credential has been assigned.

The applied art is not understood to disclose or suggest the foregoing features of claim 16, particularly with respect to “sending a message to the delegator indicating that the delegation credential has been assigned.”

More specifically, Gasser describes granting access to a resource after it is determined that the user name or delegated system is valid. However, Gasser does not describe sending a message to the delegator, much less a message indicating that the delegation credential has been assigned (see column 3, lines 26 to 34 and column 13, lines 48 to 54 of Gasser). For at least this reason, claim 16 is believed to be patentable over Gasser.

Independent claim 20 is directed to a method that includes receiving, from a delegate, a delegation request for a role of the delegator. The method also includes receiving a value corresponding to a confirmation code from the delegate and receiving, from the delegator, a request for outstanding delegation requests. The method further includes requesting approval from the delegator of an outstanding delegation request from the delegate and receiving the confirmation code from the delegator in response to requesting approval.

The applied art is not understood to disclose or suggest the foregoing features of claim 20, particularly with respect to “receiving, from the delegator, a request for outstanding delegation requests.”

In this regard, Gasser does not mention “outstanding delegation requests” much less “a request for outstanding requests.” Furthermore, the Examiner has not provided, in the Office Action, any reference to outstanding delegation requests, or any indication as to where, in Gasser, outstanding delegation requests are disclosed or suggested. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 20 should be allowed.

Independent claims 23, 29, 34 and 38 roughly correspond to independent claims 1, 11, 16 and 20, respectively. Accordingly, claims 23, 29, 34 and 38 are believed to be allowable for at least the same reasons noted above with respect to claims 1, 11, 16 and 20.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that the entire application is now in condition for allowance. Such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

All correspondence should be directed to the below address. Applicants' attorney can be reached by telephone at the number shown below.

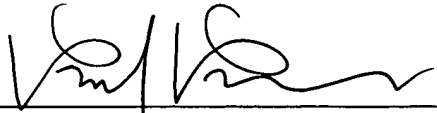
Applicant : Ernie F. Brickell et al.
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Attorney's Docket No.: 10559-505001
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No fee is believed to be due for this Response; however, if any fees are due, please apply such fees to Deposit Account No. 06-1050 referencing Attorney Docket 10559-505001.

Respectfully submitted,

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